The Board of Commissioners of the Bossier Levee District met in regular session on Wednesday,

November 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Levee Board Office, 3404 Industrial Drive, Bossier City, Louisiana.

The President, Tim Larkin, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL PRESENT: Commissioners – ALLEY, BANTLE, LARKIN, MOORE, STELLY

Staff: Mark Long, Devan Jordan, Deanna Rabb, Robert Tomasek & German Velazquez from the Department of Transportation and Development, and William Bradford acting legal counsel with Blachard, Walker, O’Quin &

Roberts law firm.

ABSENT: MONTGOMERY

The first order of business was the opening prayer by Commissioner Alley and the Pledge of Allegiance

by Commissioner Larkin.

On motion by Montgomery, seconded by Alley, and unanimously passed, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes and approved the minutes of the regular Board Meeting previously held on October 12, 2022.

**REQUESTS BY VISITORS:**

Mr. Donald Barker, Engineer with Mohr and Associates on behalf of their developer Mr. Ed Gainnie with

Southern Home Builders appeared to request an Encroachment Permit along Flat River inside the BLD’s Control

Area in Legacy Subdivision to make proposed Detention Pond Drainage Improvements. (PERMIT #2022 - 68)

On motion by Moore, seconded by Stelly, and on recommendation from the Applications Committee

seeing nothing unusual and routine the Board approved the Encroachment Permit along Flat River inside the

BLD’s Control Area for proposed Detention Pond Drainage Improvements in Legacy Subdivision. No comments

from the public. (PERMIT #2022 - 68)

Mr. Ryan Estess, Engineer with Raley and Associates on behalf of homeowner, Mr. Todd Roberts

requested a permit to construct a proposed aggregate driveway and two possible future residential driveways

inside the BLD’s Control Area on Benoit Bayou; located on the east side of Old Brownlee Road.

On motion by Alley, seconded by Bantle, and on recommendation from the Applications Committee

they retroactively approved Mr. Roberts request to construct his proposed current and future driveways along

Benoit Bayou on the ease side of Old Brownlee Road. No comments from the public. (PERMIT #2022 – 71)

Michael Kelsch, with Raley & Associates, Inc. appeared seeking a permit for Rosewalk Subdivision

(being a subdivision located in Section 16, Township 19 North, Range 13 West) to encroach in the outer 50 feet

of the 100’ BLD’s Control Area to install a proposed detention pond, future Utility Servitudes and fences

along Willow Chute Bayou and approval of the master plan concept.

On motion by Bantle, seconded by Alley, and on recommendation from the Applications Committee

the Master Plan approval was postponed so that some of the concepts and the details can be explored further

for consideration in an upcoming meeting. No comments from the public.

(PERMIT #2022 – 76)

Mr. Jacob and Amy Randall, homeowners at 223 Conti Way are requesting a Fence Encroachment

Permit located in the St. Chares Court Village Subdivision – Unit #9 along Willow Chute Bayou. They would like

to build a proposed 6 foot privacy fence along the north side of the property an a see through fence suitable for

containing pets along the back property line.

On motion by Moore, seconded by Bantle, and on recommendation from the Applications Committee

the Board agreed to allow the permit for encroachment up to the 1st 50 feet from the high bank of Willow Chute

Bayou for the construction of a privacy fence on behalf of the homeowners, Mr. and Mrs. Randall.

No comments from the public. (PERMIT #2022 – 74)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board reviewed the following plat from the MPC for approval:

The Cove at Villaggio (located in Section 24, Township 18 North, Range 13 West, Bossier City, LA)

On motion by Moore, seconded by Bantle, and on recommendation from the Applications Committee

the Board agreed the plat met all requirements and approved a letter of no objection to be issued. No comments

from the public.

**LEVEE AND DRAINAGE REPORT**

**Red Chute Bayou Channel Slope Repairs**

- July 24, 2019 – Vicksburg Corps conducted a damage assessment of high-water damages on Red Chute Bayou; no determination as of November 11, 2019.

- December 9, 2019 – Donald Walker, Chief of Vicksburg Corps Emergency Management called and advised that the Vicksburg Corps would be providing funding for approximately 10 bank caving sites along the levee.

- December 10, 2019 – Captain Papia with the Vicksburg District made a site visit to assess the bank repair areas.

- March 30, 2020 – received letter dated March 24, 2020, from the colonel of the Vicksburg District Army Corps denying our request for PL 84-99 funding for bank caving repairs.

- Waiting for further direction from Corps on repair requirements.

- July 8, 2021 – Lanny Barfield, with the USACE Vicksburg District, advised that the District recently requested approval from the MVD for funding approval to repair of the sites.

- May 10, 2022 – Received an email from Craig Prestwood, Senior Project Manager, with the USACE Vicksburg District

advising that our request for bank stabilization repairs has been approved by the MVD and that they are getting ready to send in a funding request to MVD for design and data collection.

- July 21, 2022- BLD provided a right-of-entry to Patrick White with the Vicksburg District for surveying and site assessment needed for plan design for bank stabilization repairs.

- September 12, 2022 – Soil survey for bank stabilization design started.

- October 12, 2022 – Topo survey for bank stabilization design is near completion.

**Red Chute Levee Raise Project**

- Mitigation analysis for levee raise was conducted by Nixon Engineering and Dewberry Consultants.

- October 31, 2019 – Nixon Engineering delivered mitigation report.

- December 8, 2019 – Kurt Nixon and Jacob Lesue presented the board with mitigation study results.

- March 11, 2020 – Kurt Nixon submitted a revised mitigation study report with recommendations for a levee raise and mitigation.

**Levee Inspection Compliance**

- BLD has completed an inspection and report of deficiencies on the Red River Levee including items listed on the USACE 2019 Levee Inspection Report. Our plan of action is to start removing all unwanted vegetation and other encroachments in areas where permission can be obtained from property owners.

- Corps Routine annual inspection conducted on May 3, 2021, on the Red Chute Bayou Levee.

- Corps Periodic Levee Inspection conducted May 4-5, 2021, on the Red River Levee.

- Work underway south of LA 511 Bridge removing encroaching trees and brush.

- November 15, 2021thru November 18, 2021, video inspection made on all levee drainage structures.

- November 7, 2022 – BLD crews making repairs to seepage berms on Red River Levee north of Lock and Dam 5 Road.

**Red River Levee Certification**

- May 8, 2018 – sent letter to Corps requesting their services in providing new levee certification.

- February 7, 2020 – we received word from Craig McRaney with the Vicksburg Corps that the levee can be raised above

elevation of Lock and Dam 5 Road; Mr. McRaney also advised that the levee district should submit a request for a 408

permit to raise the levee in the areas with insufficient freeboard.

- February 10, 2020 – a conference call was held with several members of the Vicksburg Corps; the purpose of the call was to seek guidance on how to expedite the permit for the levee raise and to request that the Corps provide assistance in obtaining the permit. Very little new information was obtained from the call; the Corps did say that they would research

the Congressional Authorization for the levee to determine if any restrictions such as an additionally congressional authorization would be needed to raise the levee.

- September 9, 2020 – hired Kurt Nixon to review options for levee certification.

- January 11, 2021 – held conference call with Vicksburg Corps and discussed 408 permit requirements for raising the areas with deficient free board on the Red River Levee north of Lock and Dam 5.

- March 3, 2021 – Kurt Nixon provided progress letter on status of the 408 permit.

- April 12, 2021 – conference call held with Katy Breaux and members of the Vicksburg Army Corps of Engineers to discuss a Risk Assessment to be used for levee certification.

- April 22, 2021 – conference call with Vicksburg Corps to discuss Risk Assessment; Katy Breaux advised that the Corps has obtained funding for the Hydraulic Analysis portion of a Risk Assessment

- June 8, 2021 – spoke with Katy Breaux, Project Manager with Vicksburg Corps and she advised that work on the Hydraulic Analysis portion of the Risk Assessment should be completed by the end of July 2021.

- On August 17, 2021, Raley and Associates completed work on cross sectioning and topo survey of a 6.0-mile segment of the levee from lock and Dam 5 road north.

- January 4, 2022 – received a status update on the CORPS H&H Analysis for the Red River Levee; the H&H Analysis is complete however they are waiting on new risk assessment classification guidance before issuing a report.

- March 28, 2022 – a meeting with the Vicksburg Corps and local officials was held; Will McRae with the Vicksburg Corps Levee Safety Center presented Corps recommendations for a path forward on levee accreditation and discussed an in-depth levee risk assessment to be cost shared with the Corps and local entities; estimated cost range between $250,000.00 and $750,000.00.

- July 6, 2022 – re-submitted letter of request to the Vicksburg Army Corps of Engineers for a Semi-Quantitative Risk Assessment on the Red River Levee.

**Flat River Outfall Pipes - South of Sligo Road**

- February 2, 2022 – signed Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Bossier Parish Police Jury to cost share on the installation of two outfall pipes south of Sligo Road on Flat River.

- October 24, 2022 – Bossier Parish Police Jury crew started work.

**Tinsley Ditch Culverts**

-December 15, 2022 – the board authorized Kurt Nixon with Nixon Engineer to proceed with survey and design for the replacement of existing culverts under Crowing Lane and installation of a new culvert between Crowing Lane and Lateral B-4 ditch.

- February 1, 2022 – revised construction plans received from Nixon Engineering.

- March 3, 2022 – Bids were opened for the Crowing Lane Drainage Improvements with a low bid of $232,757.50 from

FJ Burnell.

- March 30. 2022 – work began.

- July 18, 2022 – work is substantially complete except for fence installation.

- September 13, 2022 – issued contract with F J Burnell for a concrete headwall and concrete apron at a cost of $42,966.00.

- November 7, 2022 – required utility relocation started; undetermined time required to complete utility relocation.

**Red River Levee Ponding Area**

- January 5, 2022 – requested surveyor to survey area near Red River Levee Station 147+00 to determine how best to drain an area of ponding water adjacent to the levee.

- April 1, 2022 - received survey information from Travis Sturdivant with Raley and Associates of ponding area and proposed drainage ditch.

**Levee and Drainage Crews**

- Making various repairs in preparation for semi-annual levee inspection.

- Hauling and placing soil on eroded levee seepage berms north of Lock and Dam 5 Road.

- Inspecting contract levee surfacing.

- Inspecting various construction activities near levees and drainage channels.

- Inspecting levees, channels, and drainage structures; cleaning outfall pipes and flap gates.

- Trimming trees and brush from levees and drainage channels.

- Mowing levees and drainage channels.

- Servicing and repairing equipment.

On motion by Bantle, seconded by Alley, and unanimously approved, the Board authorized the

secretary for the Bossier Levee District to make payments for the month of April in the amount of $58,749.09

as set forth in the materials provided for the Board. The November 9, 2022 Bossier Levee District Board

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:20 a.m.

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Timothy A. Larkin, President Deanna S. Rabb, Secretary